in Paragwal and border areas of Ranvir Singh Pur, Kathua and Hira Nagar where people are fleeing from their homes. Also there is thousands of acres of land where farmer's can not cultivate and have to sustain great financial loss. As the farmers go into their fields, Pakistani rangers start firing. This has pushed the farmers to starvation. I would like to Defence Minister to pay attention to it and pay compensation to the farmers...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Defence Minister is present here. You should ask him to give reply on it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have spoken to him. Normally several people desire to speak on a particular subject but only that person is called whose name figures in this list.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your name has been included, let him speak.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : This matter pertains to my constituency. I have given a notice on it. Why don't you give me an opportunity to speak on this subject. You can verify my name from the records ....*(Interruptions)*. As I have said earlier also that three border districts of Punchh, Rajouri and Jammu lie in my constituency and am elected from this constituency. As has been said by Shri Chaman Lai Gupta, for about last six months this areas has been witnessing Pakistani firing. The farmers cannot go in their fields nor is the fencing work being undertaken. I have stated it earliar also. I have returned from my constituency a day before. A woman who was working in her field got killed from Pakistani army's bullet a day before. A youth had also got injured before. Score of cattle are being perished. People are unable to work in their fields. They cannot sleep. They are thinking to move to safer places. Either you stop firing or give them convincing reply. You please speak to them. There is hot line between Pakistan and India. Why does not the Prime Minister speak to them on this issue? You speak to them and if they do not agree, then teach them a lesson. The manner in which you have retaliated in Kargil area is indeed appreciable. A large scale infiltration is taking place in Punchh and Rajouri Districts.

Afghani, Sudani and Pakistani terrorists are hiding in the hilly regions of Punchh and Rajouri Districts and have struck many a times. This area had been normal for seven years but now terrorism has spread there also. People living there are good and simple. That area is inhabitated by Muslims but people are coming there from outside. Our forces have not been able to check their infiltration. Please pay attention to this problem and respond in a befitting manner.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of firing is concerned, this has not taking place there for the last six months. Firing has been taking place along the border for the last many years. This is wrong to say that we did not retaliate. We do retaliate and we are retaliating to their firing.

As far the question of sowing of crops by the farmers is concerned, this is true that when firing takes place, it not only poses a problem to the Indian farmers but it poses problem to the farmers of Pakistan too. As the question of talks on the hotline is concerned, we did have talks on that. We talked on this issue and they were asked to immediately stop firing there. They were told during talks that if they would indulge in such nefarious activities, then there would be more firing from outside too. I would like to assure that if they do firing, we would resort to much more firing. But so far as the talks are concerned, these are going on and we want that relations between Hidustan and Pakistan should be amicable and for this reason only we do not want to make any such announcements in the House but we do want to assure that we will retaliate and we will retaliate in such a way that they are made to stop firing on Kargil.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Those who could not sow their crops what the Government does for such farmers? Either the Government should compensate them...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : That is right.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : You say this every time but people are leaving their villages...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Guptaji, Please sit down.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very crucial issue through you.

Truck drivers and truck operatros have to face a lot of difficulties all over the country. They have been put to a lot of harrashment. They have been harrased a lot in the cases of overloading, driving licences and due to different tax structure in different states. It is a matter of regret that the foodgrains which are sent from the Punjab all over the country, the drivers who transport the foodgrains all over the country, they are robbed on their way, they are robbed of their money and even then their case is not registered. If a dacoity takes place in any train, we talk about that and if any other thing happens as such, we discuss that but many a truck driver are killed and looted everyday but we do not talk about them. I think that there should be amendments in the All India Vehicle Act. A truck costs seven lakh rupees and its capacity is of ten tonnes. A tractor costs two lakh rupees and it has also a capacity of ten tonnes. If the looting capacity ranges from 14 to 15 tonnes, tax structure is uniform for the entire country and where trucks are manufactured, it would be better, if tax is levied at the door or factory itself. Tax levied for use of National Highways should also be uniform. Due to these problems, truck drivers feel harrassed. I want to draw attention of the Government towards the difficulties being

faced by truck operators and truck drivers and their harressment should immediately be stopped.

[English]

SHRI S.P. UDAYAPPAN (Ramanathapuram) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on 17.7.1997 five fishermen of Pamban were fishing near Vedaranyam well inside the Indian territory. All of a sudden, at about 5 p.m., the Sri Lankan Army personnel came there in a helicopter and started firing at their boat. As a result of this firing, two fishermen labaraj and Francis, belonging to Pamban, died on the spot and three others were seriously injured.

Sir, a large number of fishermen of Pamban and Rameswaram have been brutally attacked and mercilessly killed by the Sri Lankan Army and Navy in the recent months. The Sri Lankan Government have no right to kill them. If our fishermer had done anything wrong, they should have been arrested and an inquiry held but they should not have been killed on the spot. It is a strongly condemnable action.

I would, therefore, request the Government of India and the hon. Prime Minister to kindly convey our strong objections to the Government of Sri Lanka and save our poor fishermen from being killed. I would also request the hon. Prime Minister to consider this case sympathetically and sanction Rupees One lakh each to the members of the bereaved families.

[Translation]

PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR (Jalesar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir our country is eacking in the existing tourist facilities in our country, the tourism policy and rules pertaining to tourism. The Government also is not paying any special attention towards this aspect. Such officers are there in the Tourism Department against whom the cases of corruptions have been initiated and against whom the C.B.I. inquiry has been completed and whose names figure in the list of persons of doubtful integrity. He is holding the top most office and his substitute is being found. He is the only person who has been called for interview. I want to submit that the tourism industry is such a source of foreign exchange through which the economic condition of the entire country could be improved. Therefore, the high officials who are in the agreed list and against whom cases are pending in the court and who have blatantly been indulging in corruption atleast such people should be removed and the most qualified and bonafide persons should be brought in their place who can think of the interest of the country instead of their own interest. This is what I wanted to request the Government and the Minister of Tourism.

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI (Mirzapur) : The hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 50 years have elapsed since our country became independent. I would like to say something about myself here. I request my fellow members not to object to it. I will not say anything about court's observation about me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please speak in brief.

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI : I want to speak about myself. Sir, I had surrendered in 1983. What was I, what happened to me and in the past, I will not speak anything on these things. But I did surrender in 1983 with preconditions. The Madhya Pradesh Government had promised me that likewise the dacoits surrendered in 1972 which included Madho Singh, Mohar Singh, Tehsildar Singh and many others and that Surrender was made possible at the instance of Acharya Binobha Bhave. He was facing litigations in three states viz Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and all these cases were heard at the same place i.e. inside the Madhya Pradesh Central Jail. In the same way it had been promised to me also that my all cases may be in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and wherever they are, will be heard in Madhya Pradesh and in the same way as Dacoits had been liberated in 1972, similary after 8 years 8 months, I will also be released. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I tolerated atrocities for 11 years and passed every single day with the hope that some day I will also get justice. I was put behind the bars for 11 years without any trial. I was not well and it was doubted that it may not convert into cancer. Then I was shifted from Gwalior Jail to Tihar Jail. At that time the popular Government came in power in Uttar Pradesh and decided that the cases against Phoolan Devi may be withdrawn and in the year 1984 the cases were withdrawn. So many years have passed after withdrawing the cases. Now the Government of Dalits and backwards have come in power and its Chief Minister is a woman, she has decided that the cases against Phoolan Devi may be started again. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not a puppet. If all of you have granted me pardon then excuse me, otherwise I will not live alive.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Self immolation should not be mentioned here.

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI : I am facing a grave injustice where shall I go. To whom I may ask for justice. I was in jail for 11 years without trial. Today, this Government is starting the cases against me once again. It is not the injustice with me only but it is the injustice with 16 lakh people. I am unable to go to Mirzapur Bhadoi. Whenever I go there, people ask me, what happened to those which I made. I say that I am not well. I am unable to tell them that I am busy due to court. I am unable to say that to-day the Uttar Pradesh Police is searching me, that where is Phoolan Devi. The Police is searching me in trains that where I am. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, justice should be done to me. I am facing the gravest injustice. otherwise, I will self immolate on the occasion of 50th Anniversary of our independence.